

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lambie et al. (U.S. 6,200,586). Without agreeing with the Examiner, applicants have amended claims 1 and 6-8 and canceled claims 2-5, 9, and 14-26 to facilitate prosecution. In view of the amendments noted above and remarks provided below, reconsideration of the merits of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a subsequent application.

Claims 1, 6-8, and 10-13 as amended are directed at a method for enhancing fruit-ripening by treating a fruit or fruit-bearing plant with a fruit-ripening amount of a composition containing one or more N-acylethanolamines as defined in claim 1. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification at Example 2 (including FIGS. 2-5) on pages 8-10, lines 7-8 of paragraph [00016] on page 4, and lines 3-6 and 8-9 of paragraph [00017] on page 4. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in connection with pending claims 1, 6-8, and 10-13.

Lambie et al. disclosed a formulation for biocidal or agrochemical active substances that have low water solubility. The formulation employs a surfactant for dispersing such substances in an aqueous-based system. Lambie et al. do not teach or suggest, either explicitly or implicitly, that any molecule is bioactive, much less that it is capable of enhancing fruit ripening in particular. Therefore, Lambie et al. do not make it obvious to use a fruit-ripening amount of one of the N-acylethanolamines to achieve a fruit-ripening effect as required by the pending claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-8, and 10-13 as amended are not obvious over Lambie et al. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary and no fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any extension of time is required in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed to be due in

connection with this response. However, if any fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to the same Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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